

**Two records of the Snow Flea *Boreus hyemalis* (Mec.: Boreidae) from west Wales**

On 14 December 2003, while recording mosses and liverworts in Cwm Berwyn, Cardiganshire (VC 46) with Arthur Chater, I noticed a female Snow Flea sitting on a tuft of the moss *Amplidium mougeotii* in a crevice on a sandstone rock face. After a few minutes of being watched and photographed, the insect jumped off the moss and was not relocated. The rock face is part of Craig Clogan (O.S. grid reference SN 726582), a south-facing outcrop of Silurian rocks at 550m above sea level.

A few weeks later, on 25 January 2004, I saw another female Snow Flea during a bryophyte recording trip in Carmarthenshire (VC 44). This one was on mosses on a block of Old Red Sandstone in a gully on the Carmarthen Fan. It was sitting on *Anoetangium aestivum* and growing nearby were the mosses *Schistidium apocarpum sensu stricto* and *S. crassipilum* and the liverwort *Frullania tamarisci*. The Carmarthen Fan (SN 816218) is the imposing crag above Llyn y Fan Fach; the Snow Flea was noted at 640m above sea level.

This elusive relative of the common scorpion flies (*Panorpa* spp.) is almost certainly under-recorded in south Wales. There are a few previous records for Cardiganshire, but neither the National Recorder Colin Plant nor Ian Morgan knows of others from Carmarthenshire. Bryologists, who tend to peer closely at tufts of moss, seem likely people to spot more Snow Fleas. I have alerted a few other members of the British Bryological Society to the existence of these beautiful metallic insects.— SAM BOSANQUET, Cyngor Cefn Gwlad Cymru (Countryside Council for Wales), Winchway House, Winch Lane, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 1RP) (E-mail: S.Bosanquet@ccw.gov.uk).

***Lasius brunneus* (Latreille) (Hym.: Formicidae) and Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis* (L.) (Lep.: Sesiidae) in Kensington Gardens, Inner London**

Richard Jones (*Ent. Rec.* **115**: 28) records the ant *Lasius brunneus* at Nunhead Cemetery and several other localities in urban London south of the Thames, including Battersea Park. On 19 July 2002, a few workers of this species were in evidence on the exposed lower trunk of an old Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* near the Round Pond (O. S. grid reference TQ 2680) in Kensington Gardens, Middlesex (VC 21). The record falls just inside a 10km square without records on the distribution map published by Alexander & Taylor (1998, *Br. J. ent. Nat. Hist.* **10**: 217-219) and reproduced in Edwards (1998, *Provisional Atlas of the Aculeate Hymenoptera of Britain & Ireland Part 2*, ITE).

I have also recently recorded *L. brunnens* at Stanmore Country Park (TQ 1793), Bushy Park (TQ 1669) and near Kempton Park Racecourse (TQ 1170), all during 2001, and near Harrow Weald (TQ 1492) in 2003 – all Middlesex sites. It seems likely that further fieldwork would show this increasing species to be as widespread north of the river, as Jones demonstrates that it is few miles further to the south and as it is known to be in southern Hertfordshire, for which county a tetrad distribution map has recently been published (Attewell, *Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.* **35**: 23).